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several times repeated fission of other individuals, which attach themselves from without and thus become united to the larger individuals. Stein has already traced this remarkable process and named it gemmiform conjugation. A full discussion of this process is given in the "Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist." for June, 1872.

**SPICULES OF SPONGES.**—Dr. J. E. Gray, in treating of the Classification of Sponges, in the "Annals and Mag. of Nat. Hist.," remarks that the order Coralliospongia presents the greatest abundance and the most diversified forms of spicules. The spicules that form the greater part of the skeleton of these sponges are generally joined together by a siliceous substance. Dr. Bowerbank has repeatedly denied this explanation, and calls them siliceo-fibrous sponges; but the perfect form of the spicules and the thin layered additional siliceous deposit which unites them can be well seen in a section, or in a portion of the skeleton disintegrated by the heat of a spirit lamp.

Some sponges have a fashion of collecting and imbedding in their sarcode spicules which are the remains of other sponges; and therefore care is necessary to determine which spicules really belong to the organism in which they are found. Some species even exercise a selection of certain kinds of spicules for this singular kind of absorption.

Though the form and arrangement of the spicules afford important means of classifying the sponges, the external form is an equally important character which cannot be disparaged, as has been done by some distinguished observers. It is true that some of the species are very polymorphous; but the same is true of some algæ and zoophytes which are still classified with some reference to their general forms.

## NOTES.

THE twin peaks, known as Torrey and Gray's Peaks, the highest of the Rocky Mountains, so far as yet ascertained (being considerably over 14000 feet), were last summer visited by the discoverer, Dr. C. C. Parry, who first ascended and named them in the year 1862, and by the two botanists whose names he gave to them. A full account of the ascent of Gray's Peak, on the 14th of August last, by Dr. Parry, Dr. Gray, and numerous citizens of Georgetown,

with other travellers, was published in the "Colorado Miner," edited by the Rev. Professor Weiser, who made an encomiastic address upon the occasion, upon the mountain's summit. The visit of Dr. Torrey was a few weeks later. Gray's Peak being the easier to surmount, is ascended almost every fine summer day from Georgetown; and when a better bridle-road replaces the present rude trail of the last two miles the whole ascent may be made with wonderfully little toil. As Gray's Peak is the one commonly visited, and as it has never received any other name, it has come to have more celebrity than its equally picturesque and perhaps rather loftier fellow, and sometimes the name is applied in the plural number to both culminations, or else the name of Irwin's Peak is used to designate the western one. But it is understood that Mr. Irwin's exploration of this peak was a few years later than Dr. Parry's ascent of both and his dedication of them, one to his botanical master, and the other to Dr. Torrey's associate in publication, Dr. Gray. The citizens of Georgetown, as represented by a numerous deputation, assembled upon this twin mountain upon the occasion referred to, and took the opportunity to do an act of justice, no less than of well deserved compliment, by formally resolving that the original name of the western peak, as assigned by Dr. Parry, ought to be and should be restored; that, as the one is everywhere known as Gray's, the other should in the future, as at first, be known as Torrey's Peak, and so our botanical Nestor be no longer defrauded of the honor which was specially intended for him in the original naming. We wish it could be added that Dr. Torrey had accomplished the ascent of his own beautiful mountain upon the occasion of his recent visit; but unpropitious weather prevented his reaching the summit.

An incomparable distant view of these peaks is to be had from the summit of Mount Parry, which rises between the valley in which Empire City lies and the Middle Park.—A. G.

WE regret to announce the death of Professor JOHN B. PERRY, which took place at his home in Cambridge, on the third of October, in his forty-sixth year.

PROFESSOR Agassiz's stay on the Pacific coast is having good results in awakening an interest in natural science among the people. We notice by the "Sacramento Daily Union" of Oct. 5, which contains a very full report of a lecture by Prof. Agassiz,

and an account of a reception given to him, that steps were taken to organize at once a Natural History Society in Sacramento by Dr. Logan and others.

Among the recent improvements in our colleges for enlarged facilities in science-teaching may be mentioned the new laboratory erected at Colby University, Waterville, Maine, at an expense of \$30,000. It is 48 by 56 feet long, and two stories in height. The lower story will be devoted to chemistry, the upper to a museum of Natural History. Provision has been also made to establish a chair of Natural History and Astronomy.

At Bowdoin College also, Hon. P. W. Chandler is to refit Massachusetts Hall as a Natural History Museum, in memory of the late Professor Cleaveland, at an expense of \$8,000 to \$10,000, the work being partly done. It is hoped that the graduates will take a pride in sending rare specimens of animals, plants and fossils to fill up existing vacancies.

WE have received the first number of a new monthly bee journal, "The North American Bee Journal" published by Moore and King, Indianapolis, Indiana. Its appearance indicates the popularity of bee keeping, and while Wagner's "American Bee Journal," published at Washington, is by far the most scientific and ably conducted that we have seen, there is undoubtedly room for more. By the way, when shall we have observations made in this country on the development and mode of growth and habits of the honey bee comparable with those of the best German apiarists? Is it not time for the appearance of an American Dzierzon and Siebold, or must we wait another century? Cannot science and practice among apiarians be united in America as well as in Germany?

A regular meeting of the California Academy of Sciences was held Monday, August 6th. Many valuable specimens of aboriginal skulls, minerals, petrifications from near Salt Lake City were presented to the Academy.

Mr. Stearns called the attention of the Academy to the death of Major S. S. Lyon of Jeffersonville, Indiana, and referred to the ability and distinguished services of the deceased.

Dr. Blake exhibited a specimen of an apricot which was spotted upon the surface with a blight probably the same which attacks the grape, and further remarked that the peaches and nectarines

this year, particularly in the valley of the Sacramento, appeared to be quite generally affected by it.

Mr. Stearns submitted specimens and a description of a new species of *Truncatella*, which he had named *T. Stimpsonii*; it differs from the only other species of *Truncatella* credited to the Californian province in having longitudinal ribs, the other species being smooth.

Dr. Gibbons announced the expected arrival within a few days of Dr. John Torrey and Prof. L. Stone, the latter visiting the coast for the purpose of investigating the salmon in connection with the introduction of the best variety in the rivers of the Eastern States.

THE French Association for the Advancement of Science held its first session at Bordeaux, in September, about eight hundred members being present. The association is divided into fifteen sections. Many papers were read and various excursions were made in the vicinity.

THE British Association met at Bristol, in August, and though upwards of two thousand members were present, and a goodly number of papers were read, yet there seems to have been some special cause that has led the press to consider the meeting as not so successful as some others. The address of Dr. Carpenter on "Man as the Interpreter of Nature" and Sir John Lubbock's address on the "Origin of Insects," (not yet published) were perhaps the most noteworthy productions of the session.

THE Swiss Association of Naturalists (*Société helvétique des Sciences*) assembled this year at Fribourg, on the 19th, 20th and 21st of August, and met with a hospitable reception from the inhabitants and authorities of the little city. There is no place of half its size in the Confederation but has greater cause to boast the number of its scientific students and yet nothing was left undone to make the meeting successful. On the evening of the 18th most of the visitors had arrived and greeted each other informally in the Tivoli gardens, a public resort just outside the city. The regular proceedings opened the following morning at ten o'clock, when the President, Dr. Thurler of Fribourg,\* welcomed the association in a few words, recounted the part Fribourg had played

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\* The President is apparently selected from the town where the meeting is held.

in the history of Swiss science and drew attention to its public works of scientific interest.

As an appropriate introduction to the scientific communications, Prof. Gilliéron of Basle gave an account of the Fribourg Alps, lying in four concentric arcs between the lakes of Thun and Geneva. He passed in review the successive deposits and gave an admirable sketch, rapid, clear and concise, of their relations to one another, dwelling with especial force on some points of local interest.

Dr. Gros then exhibited a collection of objects of considerable importance belonging to the bronze and stone ages obtained from Locraz, Lake of Bienne, during a recent partial draining of the lake.

M. Favre read a report of progress made in the preservation of the large erratic blocks of Switzerland. The cantonal government assume the protection of these, according as they are recommended by a standing committee of the association.\*

The session closed with an account by Dr. de Saussure, of the last eruption of Vesuvius and the consequent changes in the physiognomy of the mountain, illustrated by a map and specimens obtained on a recent visit.

The following day was devoted to sectional meetings, which opened at the early hour of eight. Dr. de Saussure presided over the zoological section, where the first communication was made by Prof. Vogt; he gave a detailed account, accompanied by numerous enlarged sketches, of the transformations of *Artemia*; special attention was drawn to the fact that in the young, the second pair of articulated members are natatory legs, similar in both sexes, which afterwards become complicated and enormously developed claspers in the male, and abortive organs in the female.

M. A. Forel (who received, at the general session of the previous day, the Schaffly prize for an exhaustive essay on the structure and habits of Swiss ants) gave a very interesting account of the habits of certain ants of mixed colonies; these he divided into classes, the first comprising ants of different species, which live in actual communism and perfect harmony, one as slaves of the other; the second comprising those which sustain a perpetual warfare, the one living in passages mined in the walls of the

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\* Ought not the state governments to exercise similar jurisdiction over such remains in our own country?

other's formicaries ; in this case, sapping is sometimes carried on so extensively as to ruin a portion of the common abode, whence ensues a sanguinary combat, the smaller, weaker mining species only saving itself by taking refuge in narrow passages where the foe cannot follow.

M. Fatio followed with an account of exotic bats which have been known to occur in Switzerland.

Dr. Vouga next read a paper on the Mentone skeleton, and compared the formation of the bone cave where it was found to that of the Grotto of Four, where implements of the stone age have been discovered ; he considered the powdery soil of both to have been produced mainly by the incessant fall of flakes of lichen from the ceiling of the cave, and argued from the comparative depth of these deposits that the probable age of the Mentone skeleton was four times that of the implements in the Four Grotto. The same subject was discussed in the geological section, where M. F. Forel maintained that the Mentone Cave relics should be referred to the period of the reindeer, although no bones of that animal had been found in it ; he believed the skeleton to be that of an old man, belonging to a wandering tribe of hunters.

The foregoing account embraces that portion of the early proceedings which would especially interest readers of the NATURALIST ; but we cannot pass over some other features, suggesting, perhaps, desirable changes in our own plan of procedure. In the first place, the Swiss Entomological Society takes this opportunity of assembling its members. Why might we not still further nationalize our "American" Entomological Society, which never holds a meeting out of Philadelphia?

Again, the eminently social character of this annual assembly is in pleasing contrast with our more formal meetings. The mornings only are given to "papers ;" two or three hours each day are devoted to a "banquet" in a large hall, at which the president of the association presides. The annual assessments are made large enough to cover the additional expense and in this instance the wine was provided partly by the "Fribourg section" of the society, partly by the "Conseil d'Etat" of Fribourg. "Vin d'honneur" was the new name given to the Yvorne. Toward the conclusion of the first day's repast, toasts followed in rapid succession. Prof. Vogt favored the assembly with a truly American speech in which "la Liberté" was toasted. In accordance with a suggestion

of Prof. Desor, who recalled the pious custom at ancient festivals of evcking the names of departed friends, all rose in silence at the mention of two most distinguished members, lately deceased — Pictel de la Rive and Escher von der Linth. Dr. Dor greeted the foreign men of science present at the reunion, prominent among whom were Milne-Edwards of Paris and Volpicelli of Rome, and brought the former to his feet amid much applause. Rival cities and rival sections then vied with each other in the interchange of compliments, amid which the hilarity came to an end. All the speeches were voluntary and none occupied more than five minutes.

After dinner each day excursions were made in the vicinity, where, in some private grounds, an unannounced collation awaited the guests; one evening was spent in the cathedral, listening to the far famed organ; on the other evenings the members assembled in the Tivoli gardens, where supper and music were provided. No ladies were present on these occasions nor were there more than two dozen in attendance in the gallery of the main hall at the opening of the general session.

At the meetings, both general and sectional, hand specimens and microscopic objects were freely exhibited, the members constantly crowding to the platform to examine them during pauses in the remarks, the presiding officer joining with them, until, by returning to the chair, he indicated the wish of the speaker to resume.

Excepting the introductory remarks of the President there were no set addresses whatsoever, in marked contrast with the custom of the British Association, where the president of each section inflicts a labored discourse upon his auditors. Perhaps we have struck the golden mean, but the Swiss custom has much in its favor.

Printed lists of the persons present each day were supplied to all in the evening. Each guest was also furnished, on arrival, with dinner tickets, a guide book and map of the city; lodgings were provided free for any who wished to accept. The meeting next year will be held at Schaffhouse, under the presidency of Dr. Stierlin. — *Special Correspondent.*

THE recent Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held at Dubuque has called forth more criticism than has usually been given to the annual gatherings of this important and truly national body, and much that has been said has been adverse to the meeting in a scientific sense. Though



the association has perhaps deserved a little censure for some of its acts, which it is well thus to check before they take root, yet we think that some of the remarks in the daily press have been made through ignorance of the real work of the association, and the special cause of the supposed failure in the "science" of the recent meeting.

It must be remembered that the association has one great object, as expressed by its name; and science is advanced not only by the discussion of papers and facts brought before the association by laborers in its many departments, but also by meeting first in one section of our vast land and then another, thus bringing the workers of all regions together and, by actual contact, cementing the knowledge of the East, West, North and South into a true American Science; and not only is the cementing process to be accomplished by the reading and discussion of scientific papers by the members, but also by bringing the scientists into immediate contact with the people at large. When we take this broad view, which is, we think, the basis upon which the association was founded, we do not think that any meeting can be called in the least degree a failure because not *all* the brilliant lights of American Science happen to attend, and the papers which are read happen to fall short of the usual number, or fail in presenting startling discoveries and novel facts and theories.

That there was a comparatively small attendance of old members from the eastern and even from the central states was unquestionably owing to the fact that it was generally understood, until almost the last moment, that the meeting would be held in San Francisco, and as the time and expense of attending a meeting there would be far greater than many members could afford, they made arrangements for passing their summer in other regions, giving up all thoughts of going to the meeting this year, and when it was decided to hold the meeting at Dubuque it was too late to change plans made for the summer and prepare papers for reading at a meeting which they had given up all hope of attending. But even this has had a good result, for we think the association, with this experience, will not again leave the place of the next meeting unsettled at its adjournment.

That the Dubuque meeting was in many respects, especially socially, a decided success cannot be doubted; for certainly the greatest interest was evinced by the people of Dubuque and adjoin-

ing places in the objects of the association, and we have seldom seen such hearty good will and fellowship extended to scientists as were given by the citizens and by the great railroad corporations of the west. If appreciation of scientific work by the multitude is one step in advancing science, the results of the last meeting must be considered as most favorable.

Neither can we review the papers received and discussed, and glance over the names of the members present, without feeling that in these respects also the meeting was successful; though admitting that there was not that sharp overhauling of some crude papers which has sometimes taken place to the purification of science. In fact, the only drawback to the meeting was the lack of critical discussion of some of the papers, which were read and allowed to drop without the criticism they would have received at a larger meeting when more persons working in the same field would have been brought together.

The small number of members present (about 188) left several of the subjects which usually have a goodly number of adherents very limited in their support, and though about half of the hundred papers admitted to a place in the programme were referred to the Natural History section, to which we shall confine our remarks, there were not enough to cause the division of the section into subsections, and the bulk of them fell as usual under the head of Geology. In Botany there was but one, and that was the able address of the retiring President, Prof. Gray, which we gave in full in our last number. In Zoology there were the three by Prof. Morse on the "Oviducts of the Brachiopods," the "Embryology of Terebratulina," and "Observations on living Rhynchonella;" the very interesting and carefully prepared paper by Prof. Riley "On a new genus of Tineidæ and the singular connection of the insect with the fructification of the Yucca," which was one of the best papers read in the section; that on "Organic Vigor and its relation to Sex," by Prof. Hartshorne; and one on "Zoological Barriers," by Prof. Orton. In Palæontology, the two papers by Prof. Cope and one by Col. Foster were important in presenting new discoveries; while the paper by Dr. Day on the "Eye of Trilobites," gave an opportunity for a discussion on the position of the Trilobites among the crustaceans.

In Geology, the papers read by President Smith, Messrs. White, Perry, Alex. Winchell, N. H. Winchell, E. W. Hilgard, Andrews,

Hitchcock, Kerr, Cope, Cox and Forshey, presented recent work in the field and laboratory, and were not only in most part ably discussed, but were most instructive résumés of work accomplished and theories advanced. Under this head must not be forgotten the remarks on the recognition of the value of the State Geological Surveys by Prof. Peirce as Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, which resulted in a memorial to Government calling attention to the desirableness of compiling the results of all the state surveys and publishing them with suitable maps; a most important step for the proper understanding of the geology of the country.

In Anthropology, Col. Foster's paper on the "Crania of the Mound Builders," of which we shall give an abstract in our next number, was the most important, while the short communications by Messrs Woodman and Putnam helped to keep up an interest in this subject. In Microscopy but little was done, though the few microscopists present separated, under the usual subsection, from the Physical section, and had a number of discussions and papers by Messrs. Ward, King, Hilgard, Babcock, Tuttle and Wescott.

The more than usual care with which the Standing and Sectional Committees passed on the papers that were entered on the general list before allowing them a place on the daily programme will be hailed by all members as a step in the right direction. Though a most disagreeable task to perform, it is one that, if carried out to the full extent that it should be as required by the constitution, will do more than any other thing to make the association an exponent of the science of America, and we trust that the example set by the last Standing Committee will be followed next year, so that not only will worthless papers be excluded, but the rule providing for the presentation of abstracts of papers be enforced before allowing papers to go over to the Sectional Committees.

The Committee appointed at the Indianapolis meeting to report if any amendment to the constitution was required regarding membership rendered their report, in which they stated "that they found the constitution fully provided for the points which they had been requested to consider, but that its provisions had been violated, and that they considered a strict adherence to the constitution of vital importance to the association." The clause to which the report was specially directed was that relating to the two classes of members, the active and the associate, and it is under-

stood by the present Standing Committee that the elections next year will be made in accordance with the provision ; and it was very generally expressed that all present members should notify the Permanent Secretary as to the position they wish to hold, either as an active or associate member, it being understood that the class of active members was to contain all who were specially interested in scientific work, while the associates were to be those who joined the association for the purpose of attending the meetings in order to gratify their own tastes or to give pecuniary or personal aid in advancing its objects ; the only distinction made between the two classes being that the active members alone could hold office or vote on any matter pertaining to the management of the association.

Among the votes passed was one proposed by Col. Foster, the chairman of Sect. B., providing for a classified index of all the volumes of the proceedings, which would render them of much greater value than now.

In the general discussions which took place among the members much was said regarding the importance of having an official report of the proceedings, which should embody all the discussions, printed daily. The accomplishment of this would be a great advantage to the public as well as to the association, and arrangements could unquestionably be made for it by the employment of regular stenographers, which the rules of the association state shall be employed when practicable.

During the session, excursions were made to the lead mines, spar caves, and other places of interest in and about Dubuque, and a very enjoyable trip was made by rail to the "painted rocks" some 80 miles up the river, and continued by boat to the town of McGregor, where the members and friends of the association were most cordially welcomed and provided with a repast, after which they returned by rail to Dubuque. After the adjournment, quite a number of members accepted the kind offer of passes from the officers of the Illinois Central R. R., and were in succession the guests of the citizens of Ft. Dodge, Springvale and Sioux City, receiving at every place the most generous of welcomes, and assisted in securing the special specimens each was after. The writer of this note will never forget the aid and kindness he received while pursuing his ichthyological and archæological researches among the rivers and mounds of Iowa, and he knows that all

others who were on the excursion unite with him in thanking the many friends they made for the true western hospitality extended and accepted.

The twenty-second meeting of the association will be held at PORTLAND, Maine, beginning on Wednesday, AUGUST 20, 1873, and we believe that the association made a most judicious choice in selecting a place not only easily reached from all sections of the country, but one which will offer the extra inducement of a probably cool season, however hot the discussions may prove, and there will not be the 'bugbear' of "too hot a place to go in August" which has prevented many members from attending the western meetings.

The officers elect for the next meeting are *President*, JOSEPH LOVERING of Cambridge; *Vice President*, A. H. WORTHEN of Springfield, Ill.; *Permanent Secretary*, F. W. PUTNAM\* of Salem; *General Secretary*, C. A. WHITE of Iowa City; *Treasurer*, W. S. VAUX of Philadelphia; *Standing Committee, ex officio*, in addition to the above officers, J. LAWRENCE SMITH of Louisville, Ky.; ALEX. WINCHELL of Ann Arbor; E. S. MORSE of Salem.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

- Ueber die Weizenverwusterin Chlorops tæniopus und die Mittel zu ihrer Bekämpfung.* Von Prof. Dr. M. Nowicki. Wien. 1871. 8vo. pp. 58.  
*Die unseren Kulturpflanzen schädlichen Insekten.* Von G. Kunstle. Wien. 1871. 8vo. pp. 96.  
*Die Pflege der jungen bei Thieren.* Von G. R. v. Frauenfeld. Wien. 1871. 12mo. pp. 59.  
*Verhandlungen der K. K. Zoologisch. botanisch. Gesellschaft in Wien.* 1871. xxi Band. Wien. 1871. 8vo.  
*Bulletin Meteorologique Mensuel de l'Observatoire de l'Université d'Upsal.* Vol. i. Nos. 1-12. Dec. 1868 to Nov. 1869. Vol. iii. Nos. 7-12. Juin-Nov. 1871. Upsal. 1871. 4to.  
*Nova Acta Reg. Societatis Scientiarum Upsalienis.* Series 3. Vol. viii.  
*Bulletin de la Société Imp. des Naturalistes de Moscou.* 1871. Nos. 3, 4. Moscou. 1872. 8vo.  
*Abhandlungen herausg. vom Naturwissenschaftlichen Vereine zu Bremen.* Band iii. Heft. 1 Bremen, 1872. 8vo.  
*Monographie des Chrysomelides de l'Amerique.* Par C. Staal. Parts I-III. Upsal, 1862-65. 4to.  
*Bulletin Mensuel de la Société d'Acclimatation.* Jan.-May, 1872. 8vo. Paris.  
*Sitzungsberichte der Naturwissensch. Gesellschaft Isis in Dresden.* Oct.-Dec., 1871. Jan. to March, 1872. 8vo.  
*Correspondenzblatt des Zoolog. mineral. Vereines in Regensburg.* 25 Jahrg. 1871. 8vo.  
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*Beiträge No. 1, zu der Abhandlungen des Naturwissensch. Vereines zu Bremen.* 1871. 4to.  
*Mémoires pour servir à l'Histoire Naturelle du Mexique des Antilles et des Etats-Unis.* Par H. de Saussure. 4me Mem. Mantides Americains. Tome 2me. Prem. Part. Geneve et Bale. 1870. 4to.  
*Öfversigt af K. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar.* 26. 1869, 27. 1870. Stockholm. 8vo.  
*K. Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens Handlingar Ny Följd.* Band vii. Haft 2. Band viii, ix 1868, 1869, 1870. Stockholm. 4to.  
*Meteorologiska Jakttagelser i Sverige utgifna af K. Svenska Vetenskaps-akademien.* Af Er. Edlung. Band ix-xi. 1867-1869. Stockholm. Folio.  
*Minneskrifning öfver Erik G. Geijer.* Af F. F. Carlson. Stockholm. 1870. 8vo. pp. 23.  
*Lefnadssteckningar öfver K. Svenska Vetenskaps-Akademiens efter aar 1854, af Linda Ledamoter.* Band i, Häfte 2. Stockholm. 1870. 8vo.  
*Sitzungs-berichte der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin.* 1871. Berlin. 1871. 8vo.  
*Zeitschrift für die Gesamten Naturwissenschaften.* Bd. iii, iv, 1871. Berlin. 1871. 8vo.  
*The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine.* August. 8vo. London.  
*Feuille des Jeunes Naturalistes.* August 1. Paris. 8vo.

\* Mr. Putnam will not enter upon the duties of his office, except so far as relates to arrangements connected with the Portland meeting, until next summer, and all communications relating to the past meeting must be addressed to Prof. Lovering.